

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 28, 2003

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 3, 2003

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2003–04 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 448

Introduced by Assembly Member Matthews

February 14, 2003

An act to amend Section 42239.1 of the Education Code, relating to intensive reading programs.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 448, as amended, Matthews. Intensive reading programs: reimbursement.

Existing law authorizes a school district that maintains a kindergarten or any of grades 1 to 4, inclusive, to operate a program that provides multiple, intensive reading opportunities for pupils in any one or combination of kindergarten and grades 1 to 4, inclusive. Existing law further makes each school district eligible for reimbursements for hours of pupil attendance claimed for intensive reading programs, pursuant to prescribed calculations.

This bill would authorize a school district to elect to receive that reimbursement as a block grant, as specified, to be used for specified purposes, including, but not limited to, providing intensive reading intervention services to children up to 6 months prior to their enrollment in kindergarten.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 42239.1 of the Education Code is amended to read:

42239.1. (a) For each fiscal year, a school district is eligible for reimbursement for hours of pupil attendance claimed for intensive reading programs offered pursuant to Article 1 (commencing with Section 53025) of Chapter 16 of Part 28 in an amount up to 10 percent of the district's total enrollment in kindergarten and grades 1 to 4, inclusive, for the prior fiscal year multiplied by 120 hours, multiplied by the hourly rate for the current fiscal year determined pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 42239. This amount shall be provided in addition to amounts claimed pursuant to Sections 37252, 37252.2, 37252.8, and 37253.

(b) When expending funds received pursuant to this section a school district shall give first priority for the purpose specified in paragraph (1) of subdivision (c) of Section 53027.

(c) (1) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), a school district may elect to receive funding pursuant to this section as a block grant in an amount equal to the amount received by the school district pursuant to this section during the 2002–03 fiscal year, increased by any cost-of-living adjustments or enrollment adjustments made for the 2003–04 fiscal year or subsequent fiscal years. A school district electing to receive funding pursuant to this subdivision shall use the funds for the purpose specified in paragraph (1) of subdivision (c) of Section 53027 or for any of the following purposes:

(A) To utilize education technology ~~of demonstrated effectiveness~~ to provide supplemental reading instruction to pupils in kindergarten and grades 1 to 4, inclusive.

(B) To provide intensive reading intervention services to pupils up to six months prior to their enrollment in kindergarten.

(2) The State Board of Education may, pursuant to Article 3 (commencing with Section 33050) of Chapter 1 of Part 20, waive any statutory provision or regulation regarding the use of funds apportioned pursuant to this section to permit school districts to implement innovative programs for intensive reading instruction.

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